

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 7.

The sheet, which includes FIG. 7, replaces the original sheet that includes FIG. 7. FIG. 7 has been amended to show the label “cell(i,j)” as suggested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **30 March 2009**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-20. Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). Examiner objected to claim 3 because of informalities. Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Orsic (U.S. Patent No. 4,817,082, hereinafter “Orsic”).

Objections to the Drawings

Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5). More specifically, Examiner avers that FIG. 7 lacks the label of cell(i,j). Accordingly, Applicant has amended FIG. 7 to label cell(i,j). No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Claims

Examiner objected to claim 3 because of informalities. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 3 to correct a typographic error.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Orsic. Applicant respectively disagrees with the rejection. Orsic nowhere discloses that each cell comprises an arbiter configured to block propagation of the token to a next cell until the corresponding transmitter completes its transmission.

In embodiments of the present invention, a token is circulated in a token ring that comprises a plurality of cells. Upon meeting all requirements including the presence of a token, the matching of the destination address, and the presence of a request, a cell can issue a clearance to a transmitter by setting an acknowledgement output. Once the transmitter completes the transmission to the

corresponding receiver, the transmitter releases the clearance by resetting the request bit (see instant application, page 8). Each cell includes an arbiter that is responsible for granting clearance to a transmitter and for blocking further propagation of the token through the cell until the transmitter release the clearance (see instant application, page 13).

In contrast, in the Orsic system, no such arbiter exists. Orsic teaches directly away from the present invention by stating:

“an active crosspoint element passes the E-bit **immediately** after it has established the connection” (see Orsic, col. 4, ll. 45-50).

In other words, the Orsic system does not block the propagation of a token during the transmission of a packet. To prevent contention, the Orsic system utilize a busy line (B-line) to prevent the next crosspoint (the current token holder) from access the output controller (see Orsic, col. 4, ll. 52-55). Note that the Orsic system requires **an extra busy line connected to an output controller**, whereas in embodiments of the present invention, no such extra line is needed (see instant application, FIG. 1).

Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 20 to clarify that in embodiments of the present invention, each cell comprises an arbiter configured to block propagation of the token to a next cell until the corresponding transmitter completes its transmission. These amendments find support in page 13 and FIGs. 4B-4C of the instant application. No new matter has been added.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 20 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-10, which depend upon claim 1, and claims 12-19, which depend upon claim 11, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the application is presently in form for allowance.
Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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